

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2011

The Honorable Patty Murray

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling

Co-Chairs

Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
The Honorable James E. Clyburn
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen

The Honorable Dave Camp
The Honorable Fred Upton

The Honorable Max Baucus
The Honorable John Kerry

The Honorable Jon Kyl
The Honorable Rob Portman
The Honorable Pat Toomey

Members

Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction

Dear Co-Chairs and Members,

Congress and the American people have entrusted you with a great responsibility – ensuring the economic well-being of our nation and the creation of jobs. This is no simple task and will require both bold decisions and fair compromises.

We understand that you will consider many options when it comes to reaching the benchmarks set by Congress. But too often, when it has come time to reduce spending, the most vulnerable - the working poor and the middle class - have been asked to bear most of the sacrifice. Fortunately, there are other alternatives.

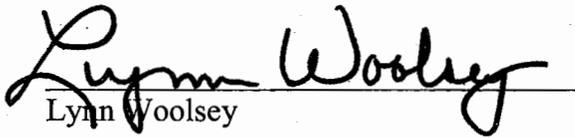
To generate much-needed savings, we strongly urge you to examine the costs of the ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. To date, the wars have cost our taxpayers at least \$2.3 trillion, with an additional \$884 billion in future costs for veterans and their families. This adds up to a total of at least \$3.2 trillion. By ending the wars and paying for a safe, orderly, and responsible redeployment of troops from both Afghanistan and Iraq, we can go a long way toward meeting our fiscal challenges. We propose:

- Ending the overseas contingency operations emergency supplementals and on-budget appropriations starting in Fiscal Year 2013, providing \$170 billion in Fiscal Year 2012 to fund redeployment, while **saving more than \$1.8 trillion from current law spending levels over ten years**

These reductions are substantial and robust. They will put us on the road to a more prosperous and secure future while advancing our national security interests.

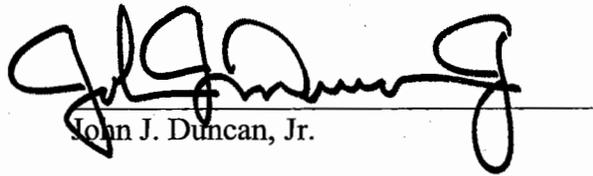
Exorbitant spending on failed wars that have killed thousands of Americans must not be exempt from budgetary scrutiny. Before we ask American families to pitch in more, let's bring our troops home – and, in the process, our tax dollars home.

Sincerely,


Lynn Woolsey

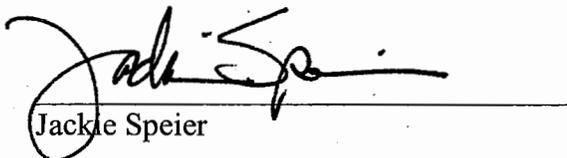

Walter B. Jones


Robert A. Brady

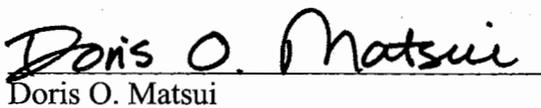

John J. Duncan, Jr.


David N. Cicilline


Ron Paul


Jackie Speier

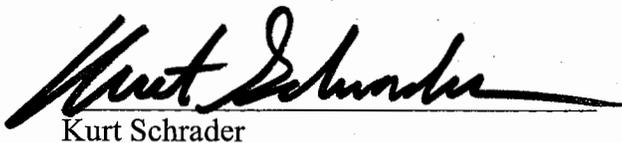

Timothy V. Johnson


Doris O. Matsui


John Garamendi


Mike Thompson


Fortney Pete Stark


Kurt Schrader

Donna F. Edwards
Donna F. Edwards

John Lewis
John Lewis

Karen Bass
Karen Bass

Paul Tonko
Paul Tonko

James P. McGovern

James P. McGovern
James P. McGovern

Jared Polis
Jared Polis

Steve Cohen
Steve Cohen

Marcia L. Fudge
Marcia L. Fudge

Keith Ellison
Keith Ellison

Yvette D. Clarke
Yvette D. Clarke

Jim McDermott
Jim McDermott

John W. Olver
John W. Olver

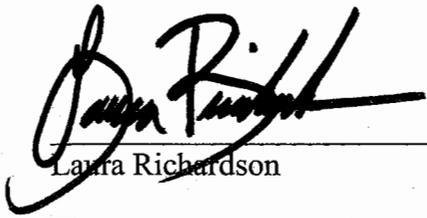
Loretta Sanchez
Loretta Sanchez

Sam Farr
Sam Farr

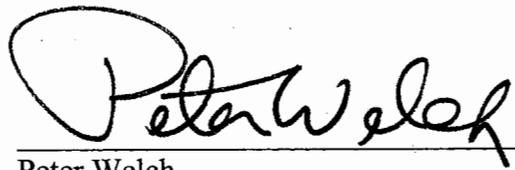
Rush Holt
Rush D. Holt

Chellie Pingree
Chellie Pingree

Hansen Clarke
Hansen Clarke



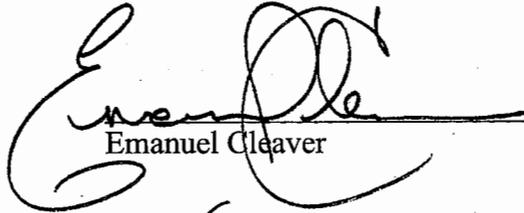
Laura Richardson



Peter Welch



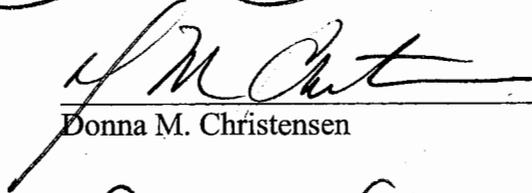
Michael E. Capuano



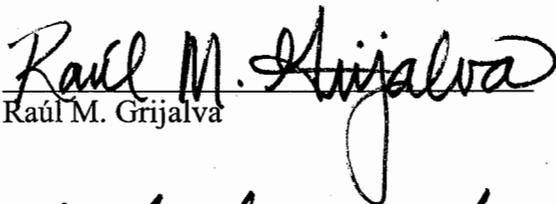
Emanuel Cleaver



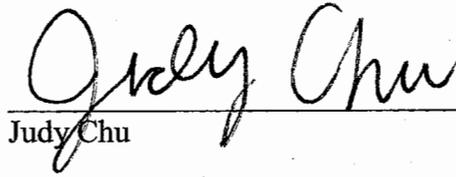
Earl Blumenauer



Donna M. Christensen



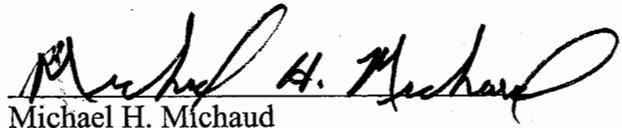
Raúl M. Grijalva



Judy Chu



Michael M. Honda



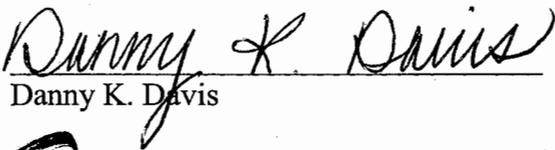
Michael H. Michaud



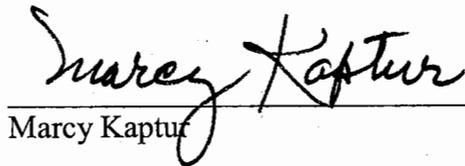
Bruce L. Braley



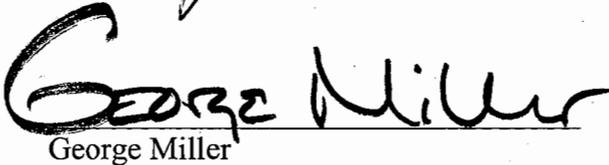
Peter A. DeFazio



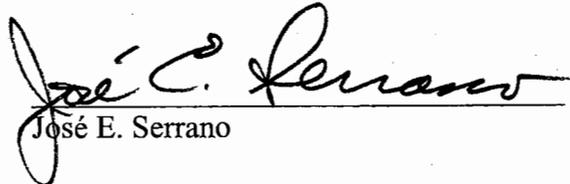
Danny K. Davis



Marcy Kaptur



George Miller



José E. Serrano

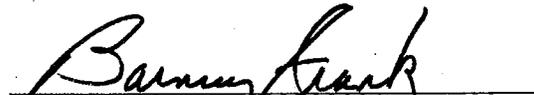


Elijah E. Cummings



Edolphus Towns

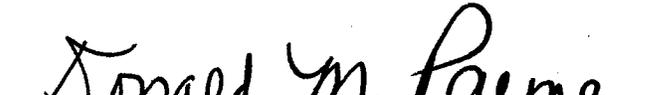

Gwen Moore

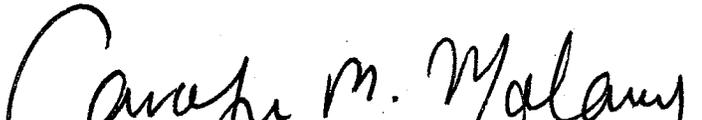

Barney Frank


Luis V. Gutierrez


Barbara Lee

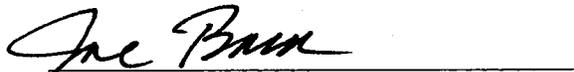

Bobby L. Rush


Donald M. Payne


Carolyn B. Maloney


Ferrol Nadler


Charles B. Rangel

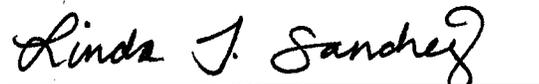

Joe Baca


Janice D. Schakowsky

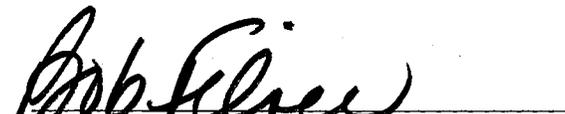

Janice Hahn

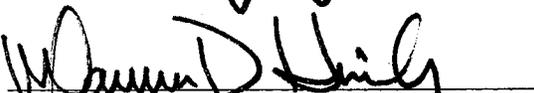

Wm. Lacy Clay


Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.


Linda Sanchez


John Conyers, Jr.


Bob Filner


Maurice D. Hinchey

Dennis J. Kucinich
Dennis J. Kucinich

Tammy Baldwin
Tammy Baldwin

Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Louise McIntosh Slaughter

Mike Quigley
Mike Quigley